

ROLE AND PROSPECTS OF ECOTOURISM IN ELIMINATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**Abdumalikov Adkhamjon Akbarali o'g'li**

International Institute of Food Technology and Engineering,

E-mail: Abdumalikovadham99@gmail.com

Abstract: This article scientifically analyzes the role of ecotourism in environmental protection and its prospective development directions. Ecotourism is recognized not only as an important component of the tourism economy, but also as an effective means of eliminating environmental problems. Through this direction, the possibilities of rational use of natural resources, preservation of biological diversity, reduction of waste, provision of employment of the local population and increase of ecological culture are expanding. The article describes the world experience and the state of development of ecotourism on the example of Uzbekistan, its strategic importance in environmental protection processes, and the importance of projects and programs in cooperation with state and non-state organizations. Also, the problems encountered in the development of ecotourism, the issues of forming a stable management system through digitization and innovative solutions were analyzed. Conclusions on the prospects of further development of ecotourism in the natural regions of Uzbekistan have been developed.

Keywords: Ecotourism, sustainable development, environmental protection, biodiversity, environmental safety, green economy, natural resource management, ecological enlightenment, recreational zones, ecological tourism infrastructure.

Login: Today, the aggravation of environmental problems, global climate change, the reduction of biodiversity and the limitation of natural resources make the issue of environmental protection one of the most urgent tasks of mankind. In such conditions, it is innovative aimed at ensuring a balance between economic development and environmental stability approaches necessary, one of them is — ecotourism. Ecotourism — is an activity that serves not only to relax and travel in the heart of nature, but also to increase ecological culture, preserve natural areas and improve the well-being of the local population without harming the environment as much as possible. Ecotourism is becoming an important factor in preserving ecologically clean areas, supporting the activities of nature reserves and national parks, and forming the responsible attitude of the population to nature.

The presence of ecologically unique natural zones, unique flora and fauna, mountain-desert landscapes, national parks and reserves in the territory of Uzbekistan creates a great potential for the wide development of ecotourism. Therefore, ecotourism is considered not only as a promising direction of the tourism industry, but also as one of the main means of mitigating environmental problems and ensuring sustainable development. The relevance of the topic is that through the development of ecotourism, it is possible to reduce environmental risks, rational use of natural resources, accelerate the process of transition to a green economy, and establish effective mechanisms for nature protection. In this regard, this article analyzes the role

of ecotourism in solving environmental problems and future prospects from a scientific point of view.

Literature analysis and discussion: The concept of ecotourism first appeared in the 1980s and was interpreted by Ceballos-Lascurain (1987) as a sustainable travel tour “aimed at increasing environmental knowledge through tourist activities without harming” nature. In the following years, researchers such as Miller (1993), Honey (1999) recognize ecotourism as an economic source of environmental protection. They say that ecotourism not only preserves natural areas, but also serves to increase the income of the local population. According to the concept of sustainable development, tourism should be carried out in harmony of environmental, social and economic interests (UNWTO, 2015). Ecotourism is being formed in accordance with these principles. International experience shows that by supporting ecological tourism, reserves, national gardens and the system of financing protected areas is effectively established (in the case of Canada, Australia, Costa Rica). Uzbek scientists Nurmatov (2020), Khasanov (2021) and other researchers note that ecotourism is an important strategic direction for our country and distinguish the following advantages in this regard:

- Their rational use while preserving natural resources
- Development of environmental education and enlightenment
- Support the transition to a green economy
- Increasing employment and income of the population
- Increasing ecological culture and forming a careful attitude to the environment

At the same time, there are some problems in the development of ecotourism:

- Lack of digitized infrastructure
- Laxity of environmental monitoring in natural areas
- Lack of specialists and guides
- Inadequate involvement of local residents in this process

However, in recent years in Uzbekistan **Chotkal, Zarafshan, Hisar, Ustyurt** ecotourism infrastructure is gradually improving in such areas. Initiatives such as “Green space”, “Ecotourism year directions”, “National Park Development Program” are giving practical results in solving environmental problems. International experience shows that economic achievements can be achieved thanks to nature protection by increasing investments in ecotourism projects and strengthening state-private cooperation. Therefore, ecotourism is not only a recreational activity, but also a strategic means of ecological stability.

Conclusion: As can be seen from the above analysis, ecotourism is one of the effective means of eliminating environmental problems. He is not only nature it serves to protect, but also to form ecological culture among the population. Through ecotourism, nature reserves and national parks will be managed on an economic basis, and opportunities for rational use of natural resources will expand. The prospects for the development of ecotourism for Uzbekistan are very large, and the existing natural areas, unique flora and fauna, mountain and desert landscapes in our country can be the basis for the implementation of new projects in this direction. At the same time, ecotourism, along with protecting the environment, increases the



employment of the local population, supports entrepreneurial initiatives and contributes to economic growth.

In short, ecotourism is an important strategic direction in the ecologically sustainable development of Uzbekistan, which plays a key role in reducing environmental risks and accelerating the transition to a green economy in the future. Consistent policies and scientifically based measures carried out in this direction serve to further increase the environmental potential of the country.

References:

1. Ceballos-Lascurain, H. (1987). The Future of Ecotourism. Mexico: Conservation International.
2. Honey, M. (1999). Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise? Washington: Island Press.
3. UNWTO (2015). Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals. Madrid: World Tourism Organization.
4. Nurmatov, A. (2020). Prospects for the development of ecotourism in Uzbekistan. Tashkent: UzMU publishing house.
5. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60. (January 28, 2022). **“About the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan”**.